



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 March 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The New York Times reports EarthLink has discovered a lot of phishing e-mail messages coming from computers in Russia, other East European countries, and Asia, with operations becoming much more technically sophisticated. (See item [12](#))
- The Tri-Valley Herald Online reports that an attache case with warning stickers on the outside was found under the ivy at San Leandro Station, next to the power station for the overhead tracks; explosives experts blew it up. (See item [16](#))
- Reuters reports a California man who prosecutors say planted an electronic bugging device on a computer at an insurance company was indicted on federal wiretapping charges for using a keystroke logger. (See item [27](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 25, Dow Jones* — FERC asserts regulatory say on LNG plans. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Wednesday, March 24, said it, not a state regulatory body, has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting and construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in California. The California Public Utilities Commission had told FERC in February that the state agency had authority to approve or reject a proposal by a Mitsubishi

Corp. unit to build an offshore LNG terminal in Long Beach. Mitsubishi unit Sound Energy Solutions filed with FERC earlier this year to build the \$400 million receiving terminal. Sound Energy Solutions had argued in a FERC filing that allowing state agencies to intervene in siting would cast a "cloud of uncertainty over development of these essential facilities at a time when California and our country as a whole is facing increased demand for, and limited supplies of, natural gas." The California PUC had proposed joint siting hearings with FERC, so the state body could ensure safety and environmental protections on the project. **The siting of LNG terminals is a hot-button issue in California, as local residents have expressed fears about the safety of such facilities.**

Source: <http://sg.biz.yahoo.com/040324/15/3j0b5.html>

2. *March 24, Reuters* — **Crystal River 3 nuke shut. Progress Energy Inc.'s 842 megawatt Crystal River 3 nuclear unit in Florida automatically tripped due to a turbine trip, the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in an event report on Wednesday, March 24.** In the report, the company said the reactor tripped Wednesday morning due to a reactor protection system actuation. "It appears that a main feedwater perturbation (sensed low feedwater flow) occurred which actuated a main turbine trip. The main turbine trip actuated the reactor protection system which tripped the reactor," the company said. All systems operated as designed during the shutdown. On Tuesday, the unit was operating at full power. The Crystal River station is located in Red Level, FL, about 85 miles north of Tampa.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/040324/utilities\\_progressenergy\\_crys talriver 1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/040324/utilities_progressenergy_crys talriver 1.html)

3. *March 24, Gazeta.Ru* — **Pipeline monopoly suggests Russian OPEC. Transneft, Russia's oil pipeline monopoly, has called for restrictions on oil production and exports for Russian oil producers. Sergei Grigoryev, vice-president of state-owned Transneft, urged the government to follow the example of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and establish state control over oil output.** He cited the example of OPEC setting oil production quotas applicable to all the member-states of the oil cartel. "In Russia, meanwhile, oil concerns are given a free hand in developing oil deposits," Grigoryev noted. The Transneft vice-president insists that intervention by the government would help avoid a serious commodities crisis in the future. Transneft's management came up with the proposal to restrict oil production in response to criticism from Russia's oil producers who pointed to an inadequate infrastructure.

Source: <http://www.russiajournal.com/news/cnews-article.shtml?nd=430 68>

4. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Texas gas drilling spikes in February. Responding to strong demand, Texas gas drillers completed 680 wells during February, the highest number in more than 30 years.** "As demand increases for clean-burning natural gas in generating electricity and heating throughout our country, the Texas oil and gas industry has had to increase drilling in order to maintain reasonable prices for consumers," Texas Railroad Commissioner Charles Matthews said. **Texas accounts for about 30 percent of total U.S. production at 5.7 trillion cubic feet per year, the commission said.** The state also is the largest consumer, using 3.9 trillion cubic feet annually. Gas production figures haven't risen yet, although Matthews predicted an increase in production should follow the increase in well completions.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/8265546.htm>

5. *March 24, ISO New England* — **FERC approves ISO New England as a regional transmission organization. ISO New England Inc. announced Wednesday, March 24, that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) conditionally approved the ISO's designation as a regional transmission organization (RTO), a move that will strengthen the independent and efficient management of the region's bulk electric power system and competitive wholesale electricity markets.** The creation of the RTO will clarify ISO's role and the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders and will provide the New England markets with accountability, transparency and stability. ISO New England will continue to perform all of its current responsibilities, and will also become the transmission provider for the region, thereby acquiring clear operational control over the day-to-day management of the transmission system. The RTO designation also strengthens the independence of the current ISO, while ensuring that stakeholders continue to have a high degree of input. ISO New England intends to work with the transmission owners and other stakeholders to make the filings required by FERC, including a compliance filing within ninety days.

Source: [http://www.iso-ne.com/iso\\_news/2004\\_Archive/RTOApprovalPR.pdf](http://www.iso-ne.com/iso_news/2004_Archive/RTOApprovalPR.pdf)

6. *March 24, Reuters* — **Pipe crack will not delay nuke restart. PPL Corp. said Wednesday, March 24, it does not expect a cracked pipe in the water recirculation system at the Susquehanna 1 nuclear unit in Pennsylvania to delay the unit's restart in mid-April.** The unit has been shut since February 28 for a planned refueling and inspection outage. "We discovered a defect during an inspection of the reactor's water recirculation system," said Herbert Woodeshick, special assistant to the president for PPL Susquehanna. "We believe any impact to the outage schedule will only be a matter of a few days." The water recirculation system takes water out of the reactor and puts it back in at a higher pressure. The system moves water through the reactor fuel core and is used to control the reactor's power level. **To repair the defect, PPL said crews will weld metal over the crack, a technique used at several other nuclear plants.** The Susquehanna station is located in Berwick, PA, about 125 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040324/utilities\\_ppl\\_susquehanna\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040324/utilities_ppl_susquehanna_1.html)

7. *March 24, WTOL-TV (OH)* — **Nuclear plant drill. Detroit Edison employees are learning what to do in case of an emergency at the Fermi Two nuclear power plant in Monroe County, OH. Public information officials simulated an accident, then met 10 miles away at Monroe Community College to gather the information and get it out the public.** Officials perform this exercise they do every two years, just to make sure they're ready if the real thing ever happens. "Everybody out here has a certain job, they're going to be practicing their job to make sure they know what to do and they'll be evaluated on how well they do their job," said Detroit Edison spokesperson Josh Henscheid. **Officials from FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission watched the exercise and judged everyone's performance.**

Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=1732355>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Air Force delays missile launch due to radar device malfunction. The Air Force delayed the launch of an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile due to a malfunction, officials at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California said. The radar device used to track the missile and gather data wasn't working properly,** base spokesperson Major Stacey Bako said Wednesday, March 24. Officials are trying to figure out what happened, she said. The missile was to take about 30 minutes to reach the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands, about 4,200 miles away. The Air Force routinely test-launches the nearly 60-foot missiles to assess their performance and reliability, as part of the Force Development Evaluation Program. The Air Force has about 500 nuclear warhead-tipped Minuteman III missiles in its arsenal, in silos located in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Source: <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/8264399.htm>

9. *March 24, Reuters* — **U.S. Air Force to buy more F/A-22s. The U.S. Air Force has agreed to buy 22 more F/A-22 fighter jets from the prime contractor for less than \$110 million per plane, Air Force acquisition chief Marvin Sambur said Tuesday, March 23. Sambur said that the terms agreed by the Air Force and the contractor were "exactly on the target price curve" and would allow the Air Force to buy a total of 277 F/A-22s by 2013 -- and possibly more. He also confirmed that top Pentagon officials approved the start of operational testing of the F/A-22 at the end of April after the Air Force and the contractor showed they had resolved problems linked to the plane's avionics and software. "We've turned this program around," he said of the \$72 billion radar-evading multirole F/A-22, which was designed to replace the F-15C as the top U.S. air-superiority fighter. Sambur said he still expected the Pentagon to decide in December on whether to move into full production of the F/A-22s from the current low-rate initial production schedule, despite a month-long delay in the start of operational testing.**

Source: [http://www.reuters.com/locales/newsArticle.jsp?type=worldNews&locale=en\\_IN&storyID=4638813](http://www.reuters.com/locales/newsArticle.jsp?type=worldNews&locale=en_IN&storyID=4638813)

10. *March 23, Associated Press* — **U.S. Army adds soldiers to cut strain on troops in Iraq. The Army is seeking ways to ease the strain on U.S. troops in Iraq before the tough deployment deters Americans from volunteering to join the Army or extend tours of duty, the acting Secretary of the Army said Tuesday, March 23. Les Brownlee said the service is already reacting to the rigors of Iraq by adding 30,000 new troops 10 new combat brigades to the Army and using as many new Iraqi soldiers as possible for jobs previously handled by U.S. troops. Since the invasion a year ago, 584 U.S. troops have died and more than 3,000 have been wounded. Some soldiers return home saying they want to leave the Army at their next opportunity. Brownlee acknowledged the rigors of serving in Iraq could hurt the Army's recruitment and re-enlistment, although he said the military is not seeing evidence of that yet. "I am concerned that in the long run, there could be some impact," Brownlee said. "We're looking at the ways we can take the stress off the force."**

Source: [http://www.boston.com/dailynews/083/world/U\\_S\\_Army\\_adds\\_soldiers\\_to\\_cut\\_.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailynews/083/world/U_S_Army_adds_soldiers_to_cut_.shtml)

11. *March 23, Govexec.com* — **Pentagon certifies need for base closures. The Department of Defense (DoD) should start closing or realigning military bases again next year because it has nearly 25 percent more infrastructure than it needs, Pentagon officials concluded in a report released Tuesday, March 23.** The report, required by Congress, officially certifies the Pentagon's conclusion that a new round of the base realignment and closure (BRAC) process is needed in 2005. Early next year, an independent, nine-member commission will weigh DoD plans for closing bases and make final recommendations to Congress and the president. By the fall of 2005, lawmakers and the White House must accept or reject the commission's list in its entirety. The law requires all bases designated as unnecessary to be realigned or shut down no later than 2011. No bases were specifically cited, but Defense officials did break down excess capacity by type of work. Among the largest areas of reported excess were: Army research, testing, development and evaluation facilities and laboratories (62 percent); Navy inventory control facilities (60 percent); Air Force classroom training space (45 percent); and Defense Logistics Agency distribution depots (20 percent). **The report predicted that savings from closing or realigning bases would be "substantial."** Report: [http://www.dod.mil/brac/docs/04\\_0\\_body032403.pdf](http://www.dod.mil/brac/docs/04_0_body032403.pdf)  
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/032304g1.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *March 24, New York Times* — **Online swindlers, called 'phishers,' lure unwary. In its latest effort to crackdown on fraudulent e-mail, EarthLink discovered a lot of phishing e-mail messages coming from computers in Russia, other East European countries, and Asia. The e-mail messages, and the Websites they directed people to, were becoming much more technically sophisticated. Government officials and private investigators say all signs point to gangs of organized criminals — most likely in Eastern Europe — as being behind many of the latest efforts.** So far, the offenders have largely evaded the searches to find them. One reason is that they often use computer worms, spread from machine to machine, to send the fraudulent e-mail. No one knows how much money has been stolen through phishing schemes. Banks say it still seems relatively small compared with other forms of fraud and theft, like using stolen credit or debit cards. The financial losses of most phishing victims, particularly those subject to credit card fraud, often end up being absorbed by banks and their insurance companies. However, the costs are real. "We get 20,000 phone calls every time one of those goes out, and it costs us 100 grand," said Garry Betty, EarthLink's chief executive. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/24/technology/24PHIS.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Transportation Sector**

13. *March 24, New York Times* — **Bomb found on rail line in Northeastern France. A bomb was discovered on a rail line in northeastern France today, March 24, the second explosive device found since an obscure terrorist entity began threatening in December to attack France's railroads unless it was paid millions of dollars. The bomb, which was**



neutralized by a French bomb squad, was half buried between the tracks near the town of Montieramey on the rail line linking Paris with the Swiss city of Basel, France's Interior Ministry said in a statement. **The discovery comes amid growing terrorist threats from various groups against France causing the country to increase security here and abroad. It comes as anxiety over the safety of rail travel in Europe is already high because of the train bombings in Madrid earlier this month that killed 190 people.** The Interior Ministry said in its statement that an employee with the state rail company, SNCF, found the bomb around noon roughly 120 miles southeast of Paris between the Troyes and Vendeuvre train stations. The bomb contained nitrate fuel in a plastic container with seven detonators attached to a timing device. The statement said one wire on the device was disconnected. The ministry called an emergency meeting of police, intelligence and other security officials late today.  
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/24/international/europe/24CND-FRAN.html>

14. *March 24, Chicago Sun Times* — **Ted schedules O'Hare takeoff.** Chicago will get a new airline in May when United Airlines begins offering flights on its fledgling discount carrier, Ted. Ted will begin selling tickets for flights between O'Hare Airport and Tampa, FL, which will begin May 24. Throughout the summer it will sell Ted flights to Fort Lauderdale, FL, Las Vegas, NV, Orlando, FL, and Phoenix, AZ. The flights will replace United routes. United Airlines named its discount carrier Ted for a couple of reasons. Ted is part of United (Uni-ted). Also, United executives wanted their airline to have a real name, something fun and personal. And they wanted something to give the new carrier, launched in February from Denver, its own identity. **United, whose parent company, UAL Corp., has been in bankruptcy reorganization since December 2002, is trying to attract cost-conscious customers who have flocked to low-fare airlines like Southwest Airlines and ATA. The carrier said last week that its emergence from bankruptcy will be delayed until the end of the summer, from June 30, as it works to secure a federal guarantee for its debt, among other bankruptcy issues to be worked out.**  
Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/business/cst-fin-ted24.html>

15. *March 24, Department of Transportation* — **Secretary Mineta announces plans to reduce summer flight delays.** During a visit to the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Control System Command Center, U. S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta today, March 24, announced a series of new steps aimed at reducing potential gridlock and delays during this year's upcoming peak travel period, including the creation of new air traffic "express lanes," within many of our nation's most heavily congested routes. "As the economy improves and passengers return to our skies, the federal government is acting to reduce the kind of gridlock we saw before 9/11," said Secretary Mineta. "These new tools for managing congestion in bad weather and during peak travel periods demonstrate a new era of cooperation between the federal government and all users of the system to improve customer service and maintain a strong aviation industry." The majority of aviation delays are caused by bad weather, the Secretary said, and managing these delays is particularly challenging during the spring and summer months. He said the Department's plan for managing delays includes a new, innovative approach to air traffic operations that creates "express lanes" within the nation's airspace.  
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot3504.htm>

16.

*March 24, Tri-Valley Herald Online* — **BART bomb scare delays service for two hours.** A Bay Area Rail Transit (BART) groundskeeper's vigilance Tuesday, March 23, served as textbook terrorism prevention in what is being called the "post-3/11 world," but his discovery of an attache case under the ivy at San Leandro Station delayed 20,000 train passengers. **The 8:38 a.m. discovery was more than suspicious. The case, with warning stickers on the outside, was buried under vegetation next to the power station for BART's overhead tracks. The case later turned out to contain a satellite telephone. Cell phones are commonly used in the Middle East to set off bombs.** The discovery came on the day a U.S. Senate committee considered ways to protect American public transit riders from carnage such as that caused by bombs on trains in Madrid, Spain, on March 11. The day before the BART bomb scare, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced plans to improve train security by deploying rapid-response, bomb-sniffing dog teams and by launching an experiment to screen luggage for Amtrak passengers. By 10:30 a.m., the county's explosives experts had X-rayed the case and decided to blow it up as a precaution. At that point, BART closed the station and police evacuated the immediate area. The bomb squad detonated the case at 11:45 a.m. and BART instantly restored service.

Source: <http://www.trivalleyherald.com/Stories/0.1413.86~10669~20378.82.00.html>

17. *March 22, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-432: Coast Guard: Relationship Between Resources Used and Results Achieved Needs to Be Clearer (Report).** GAO's past work found that despite substantial budget increases, the Coast Guard's extensive homeland security responsibilities resulted in a reduction in the levels at which the agency's ship, boat, and aircraft resources were applied to non-homeland security programs. GAO was asked to update and expand this work by analyzing: the trends in resource usage, the trends in performance results, and the implications of these trends. **GAO recommends that the Coast Guard develop a time frame for proceeding with plans to more accurately account for resources expended, and ensure that it develops a strategy for identifying the intervening factors affecting performance results, and systematically assesses the relationship between these factors, resources used, and results achieved.** The Coast Guard reviewed a draft of this report and generally agreed with the facts and recommendations presented, but did not take a formal position on the recommendations. Highlights –

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04432high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-432>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *March 24, CongressDaily* — **Postal Service should pay military retirees.** Secretary of Treasury John Snow said Tuesday, March 23, the Bush administration does not support any postal overhaul effort that would shift funding responsibilities for military retirement benefits to the Treasury. In a joint hearing of the House Government Reform and Senate Governmental Affairs committees, Snow said postal overhaul is "overdue — and critically important." However, he said the Postal Service should pay for the military retirement benefits of its employees. "The administration opposes any effort to shift the estimated \$27 billion of military costs back to the taxpayer," Snow said. Several key lawmakers active on postal change have said transferring the military payment back to the Treasury is an integral part of any

legislation. **If the Postal Service is required to fund those payments, they say, it will be forced to raise rates sooner, exactly what overhaul legislation aims to prevent.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/032404cdam1.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Agriculture Sector**

19. *March 24, just-food.com* — **Bird flu hits third farm in western Canada. Avian influenza has been found at a third farm in western Canada and there are fears it may have spread to two more farms**, officials have said. The latest confirmed case of the disease was at a farm east of Vancouver, British Columbia that is within two kilometres of two other farms hit by bird flu earlier this month, reported Agence France Presse. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency ordered the slaughter of a further 8,500 chickens, bringing the total number of birds slaughtered on farms in the area in recent weeks to around 60,000. **The disease found on the farm was the H7 strain, a milder form of the disease than that which has caused more than 20 human deaths in Asia.**

Source: [http://www.just-food.com/news\\_detail.asp?art=57084](http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=57084)

20. *March 23, just-food.com* — **EU extends ban on poultry imports.** The European Union's (EU) Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health approved a European Commission proposal to prolong until 23 April the suspension of imports of live poultry, poultry meat and products, eggs and pet birds from the USA on March 23. **These import restrictions were imposed after the confirmation of a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in Texas in February.** The Commission said the situation will be reviewed at the next meeting of the committee, scheduled for March 30. At this meeting the bird flu situation in Canada will also be reviewed.

Source: [http://www.just-food.com/news\\_detail.asp?art=57066](http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=57066)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Food Sector**

21. *March 24, OsterDowJones Commodity News* — **Wisconsin and Pennsylvania veal calves barred from slaughter. An unknown number of slaughter-ready veal calves in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania have been barred from immediate slaughter because they were implanted with growth-promoting hormones, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) spokesperson.** A smaller number apparently have been slaughtered but the carcasses are being held pending the outcome of lab tests, he said. Steve Cohen, public information officer for the FSIS, said the agency has made no moves to suspend operations at any packing plant. **No growth hormones are approved for use in veal calves, Cohen said.** However, inspecting veterinarians had noticed some unusual muscling and other signs of growth promotants. In such cases, FSIS takes samples and waits for results, and this appears to be the case with at least one of the sets of calves involved. However, FSIS officials sent a letter to its veterinary inspectors last week directing them to inspect calves prior to slaughter for the implants. This is easy to do, Cohen said, because the small tablets are



inserted under the skin behind the ear, and they can be felt.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=24221](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24221)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

22. *March 23, Associated Press* — **Temporary switch coming to water treatment. As concern mounts about lead contamination in the city's water, a change is coming to the way tap water is cleaned for use in Washington, DC, Arlington, VA, and Falls Church, VA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Tuesday that on April 2, it will start using chlorine to disinfect the water from the Washington Aqueduct.** The change will last five weeks. Back in November 2001, the corps switched from chlorine to chloramine. Several city leaders suspect the change may have enhanced corrosion in water pipes, allowing increased amounts of lead to leach from the system. More details about the change are expected at a news conference.

Source: <http://www.nbc4.com/health/2943211/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health Sector**

23. *March 24, Science Daily News* — **BCM test bird-flu vaccine in humans. Doctors are beginning the first test in the United States of a vaccine designed to protect people against one form of bird flu should an outbreak of the virus occur in humans.** While the vaccine under study is not designed to protect against the precise bird-flu virus causing the current outbreak in poultry and in people, scientists will learn whether it protects against another strain of the virus that infects birds and people. Physicians at the University of Rochester and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) have embarked on an eight-month study to test an investigational vaccine in about 200 people. The study is being done at the request of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which funds a network of institutions to test new vaccines against diseases like flu, smallpox, and pneumonia. While only about two dozen people worldwide have died in recent months after becoming infected from a strain of flu known as H5N1 that is normally found in birds, **bird flu is seen as a potent threat to human health because of its potential to rip quickly through a human population. Avian flu is feared by doctors because hardly anyone carries any defenses.**

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/03/040324072141.htm>

24. *March 24, HealthDayNews* — **Stopping the damage of lead poisoning. American scientists have identified a molecule that appears to play a critical role in the potentially fatal brain swelling caused by high doses of lead.** They report their discovery in this week's online edition of the *Annals of Neurology*. **The researchers also identified a drug that prevents the swelling in an animal model of lead poisoning.** "Our findings are in rodents and need to be confirmed in humans," senior author Dr. John Laterra, a professor in the departments of neurology, neuroscience and oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Research Institute, says in a prepared statement. If these findings are

confirmed in humans, that would warrant further research to determine whether the same molecule, called vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), plays a role in cognitive problems seen in children who experience smaller, more gradual exposures to lead. Laterra and his colleagues also found a drug that blocked the ability of VEGF to effect molecular changes inside cells prevented edema in the rats with the high doses of lead. Flakes of, and dust containing, old lead-based paints pose a threat to small children.

Source: <http://www.healthday.com/view.cfm?id=517996>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

25. *March 23, Global Security Newswire* — **U.S. official says U.S. and Japan should expect bio attacks.** Most likely, it is only a matter of time before biological weapons are used in attacks on the United States and Japan, according to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, Agence France-Presse reported on March 23. "Japan is going to have a bioterrorism attack sometime in the future, just like America is going to," Thompson told the Asahi Shimbun newspaper. **He said Japan has not yet developed a comprehensive plan for responding to such an attack, and urged the country to adopt policies similar to those developed by his agency.** He urged Japan's government "to come and see what I am doing and look at ways in which they could replicate the same things in Japan." The Aum Supreme Truth sect was the first terrorist group to carry out a chemical weapons attack when it released sarin nerve agent into the Tokyo subway system in 1995. The attack caused 12 deaths and thousands of injuries.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/d%5Fnewswire/issues/2004/3/23/ab2f0447%2Dcb45%2D410c%2D9205%2Dd24fc339bc0e.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

26. *March 23, CNET News.com* — **Server breach likely to delay Gnome. The Gnome Project administrators said Tuesday, March 23, that its servers have apparently been breached, potentially delaying the latest release of its desktop system for Linux.** Gnome provides one of the two major desktop systems used on computers running the Linux operating system. "We are investigating further and will provide updates as we know more," Owen Taylor, a member of the Gnome system administration team said. The message also stated that **the administrators believed the source code repository, which contains the current development work on Gnome software, was unaffected** by the breach. The next version of the software, Gnome 2.6, will likely be delayed a few days while the project members investigate the breach. The software was scheduled to be released on Wednesday.

Source: [http://news.com.com/2100-7349\\_3-5178168.html?tag=nefd\\_top](http://news.com.com/2100-7349_3-5178168.html?tag=nefd_top)

27. *March 23, Reuters* — **Feds charge California man for using keystroke logger.** A California man who prosecutors say planted an electronic bugging device on a computer at an insurance company was indicted on Tuesday, March 23, on federal wiretapping charges. **Larry Lee Ropp, a 46-year-old former insurance claims manager, is the first defendant charged with a federal crime for using a "keystroke logger," which tracks the activities on a computer and feeds the information back to its owner,** a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles said. Prosecutors did not say what they believe Ropp hoped to gain by bugging the computer, which was being used by a secretary to executives at the company where he worked, Bristol West Insurance Group. But an affidavit filed with the indictment suggests he intended to supply information to attorneys representing a class of people who were suing the company. Investigators were tipped to Ropp after he was fired from the company and asked another employee to remove the keystroke logger, which records every keystroke made on a computer, from the secretary's machine.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews &storyID=4639860>

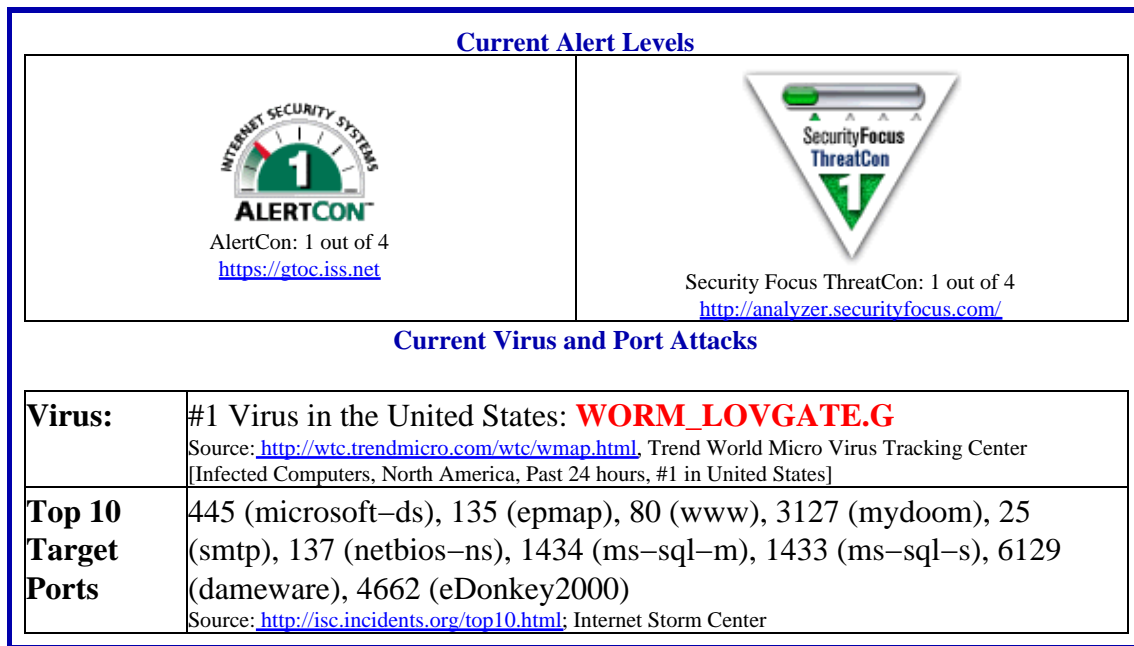
28. *March 23, Reuters* — **Senators struggle to define computer spyware.** Programs that secretly track computer users' activities are becoming an online scourge rivaling "spam" e-mail and should be outlawed before they prompt consumers to abandon the Internet, members of the Senate communications subcommittee said Tuesday, March 23. But a bill sponsored by committee members will need to define the problem precisely to avoid outlawing pop-up ads and other annoying but essentially harmless technologies, consumer and business advocates said. **Like the congressional debate about "spam" e-mail last year, much rests on the definition of what constitutes legitimate marketing activity and what should be outlawed.** Some online advertisers and song-swapping networks like Kazaa place programs on users' computers to monitor their activity, or harness their processors for other activities. Other programs secretly track users' keystrokes to lift passwords and credit-card numbers, or sell "fixes" for software problems they create. A bill sponsored by Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT) would require companies to obtain permission before installing a piece of software on a consumer's computer, and provide an easy way for the consumer to remove the software if he wished.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews &storyID=4638795>

29. *March 23, Reuters* — **Accused virus writer faces trial in Romania.** A decisive test for what is called the "toughest cybercrime law in the world" began Tuesday, March 23, with the opening of a case against a Romanian man charged with spreading a computer virus that affected approximately 1,000 computers. Dan Dumitru Ciobanu is accused of making "Blaster.F," a mild copy of one of last summer's harshest Internet worms. If convicted, the 24-year-old faces between three and 15 years in prison. **Romania has enacted tough laws to protect its emerging reputation as a hub of skilled programmers for Western companies and erase any connection with cybercrime syndicates that law enforcement officials say are being run out of Eastern Europe.** The Ciobanu case has reignited an international debate on appropriate justice for cybercrimes. With public thirst for cybercrime justice growing, experts wonder what impact a potential stiff sentence on Ciobanu will have on deterring a growing underground of virus writers.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,91563,00.html>

## Internet Alert Dashboard



[[Return to top](#)]

## General Sector

30. *March 24, Associated Press* — 'Specific threat' closes U.S. embassy in UAE. The U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) closed Wednesday, March 24, after receiving a specific threat against it. "The embassy in Abu Dhabi and consulate in Dubai have temporarily suspended operation on Wednesday, March 24, in light of a specific threat to the embassy in Abu Dhabi," spokesperson Hilary Olsin-Windecker said. **Security was increased near the embassy in Cairo, and protesters were chased away from the embassy in Bahrain.** The fears stem from Monday's assassination by Israeli forces of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Hamas militant group in the Gaza Strip, which prompted immediate calls for revenge against Israeli and American targets. German President Johannes Rau, who was wrapping up a tour of Africa, canceled a planned stop in Djibouti. His office said he canceled on the advice of German intelligence agencies who felt there was a credible threat by Islamic militants to try to assassinate him. On Tuesday, **the State Department issued an alert for the Middle East and North Africa saying it is "deeply concerned about the heightened threat of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and interests abroad.** Demonstrations running into thousands strong against the U.S. and Israel have been held daily in the streets, on university campuses and in Palestinian refugee camps around the Middle East.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,115025,00.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**DHS/IAIP Warnings** – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [info@us-cert.gov](mailto:info@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.uscert.gov](http://www.uscert.gov).

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